

Serial No.: 10/690,460

REMARKS

Art Unit: 3635

Remarks

Reconsideration of the rejection of the present application under 35 USC 103 (a) is hereby requested.

Claims 15 - 24 stand in the present Application. Claims 14 -20 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Edgar et al. ('852) in view of Grimmer ('317).

Independent claim 15 has been amended to recite that the first layer is of irregular surface and the outer layer is a "screed-guidable vacuum-planable layer". Neither Grimmer nor Edgar et al teach or suggest the nature of the claimed surface, not do they teach or suggest a screed-guidable vacuum-planable layer as recited in applicant's independent claim 15. The screed (item 22) in Edgar et al is covered by a finish coat, and hence is not usable as a guide. Hence if it is not usable as such, there would be no suggestion nor motivation to do so. The reference to Grimmer shows an application of a spray coating in an internal mold. Likewise, there would be no suggestion or teaching of a screed guide or motivation for such trimming of an outer layer by a vacuum planer.

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Since independent claim 15 is now believed allowable, those claims depending therefrom are likewise believed allowable. The rejection of those dependent claims is believed moot and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Independent method claim 22 stands rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as unpatentable view of the references to Edgar et al in view of Truesdell '181 and further in view of the reference to Grimmer, and US patent 6,354,009 to Belleau. Since the present application is a continuation-in-part application of the Belleau '009 patent, such reference should be withdrawn, such action being requested. None of the references otherwise show or suggest the method as currently recited in independent claim 22. The limitations of dependent claim 23 have been incorporated into independent claim 22. Independent claim 22 as amended now believed allowable, any dependent claim depending therefrom is also believed allowable. Such action is requested.

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In view of the amendments to the independent claims 15 and 22, those claims and their dependent claims are believed in condition for allowance which is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe any issue remains unresolved, the examiner is invited to call the undersigned for a discussion of same.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Don Halgren', with a stylized, flowing script.

Don Halgren

Applicant's rep.

Reg. No. 27056

35 Central Street

Manchester, MA 01944

ph: 978-526-8000